

Remarks

Further and favorable reconsideration is respectfully requested in view of the foregoing amendments and following remarks.

Claim 1 has been amended to recite “microbial cells and/or a cell preparation of a microorganism”, thus rendering moot the rejection of claims 1-10 and 15-20 under the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. §112 as failing to comply with the written description requirement. Support for this amendment can be found on page 26, line 18 through page 27, line 17 of Applicants’ specification.

Claim 1 has also been amended to incorporate the limitations of claim 4, thus rendering moot the rejection of claims 1-10 and 15-20 under the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. §112 for lack of enablement. As a result of this amendment claims 4, 15 and 16 have been cancelled.

Claims 1, 2, 6, 8, 10 and 17-20 have been amended to clarify that R is as defined in the formula (IV), as suggested by the Examiner. Claims 2, 3, 5-10 and 17-20 have been amended to delete “for producing a compound.” Therefore, the Examiner’s rejection of claims 1-10 and 15-20 under the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. §112, as being indefinite, is rendered moot.

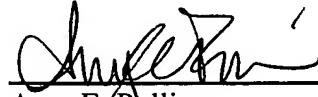
Claims 17-20 have been amended to replace formulae (II) and (III) with formulae (II') and (III'), respectively, as suggested by the Examiner, thus rendering moot the objection to claims 17-20.

Therefore, in view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is submitted that each of the grounds of objection and rejection set forth by the Examiner has been overcome, and that the application is in condition for allowance. Such allowance is solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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